

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.95

LYONDEL GARDENS

Morgantown, West Virginia

Hybridizers:

Nell Lanham Leonian

Armen Leonian

offer to a select clientele TODAY
the masterpieces of TOMORROW:

DAYLILIES

ORIENTAL POPPIES

All seeds cross pollenized by hand.
Colors that are different; form and
texture that are surprises.

1948-49



Sec. 562, P. L. & R.

The Lyondel Letter

We are sorry that it is necessary to pass along this year's message because we know it will mean disappointment to many of our delphinium friends.

We have decided that we shall not offer delphinium seeds for sale during the season, 1948. There are two or three important reasons for this decision on our part—reasons which we hope will strike a sympathetic chord with you.

At the beginning of the war, when gasoline rationing made it impracticable to have the garden thirty-five miles away at Terra Alta, Mr. Leonain rented a plot much closer which did not prove to be a good place to grow delphiniums. When he first became ill we selected the best for cultivation on our own home grounds and put our efforts into the smaller project. In the meantime we have set ourselves the task of keeping the flower project going until Armen will be free to devote his full time to it. Then, our limited experience combined with a great deal of hot, dry weather, which killed many of our best plants, left us with a limited number of very good specimens. This season we are faced with the alternatives of crossing flowers which are not up to the standard that Lyondel Gardens has always maintained; or using the fine plants we have to build up our stock for next year to the point where we can go on with our careful selection from larger plantings to produce seeds of which we can be proud, and which will keep our customers friends.

We have chosen to do the latter because, in the long run, we feel we shall be ahead by being fair with you. We believe that a life's work is not built on the temporary gain which we might get by taking advantage of the fine reputation for superior flowers which my husband has built up over a period of years. Personally, I feel that the confidence in his work which my son will gain by starting off with stock that is tops, will set the pace for him in the years ahead.

We shall keep working. In the meantime, we shall be in touch with you, and, as soon as we have a salable quantity to offer, you shall know. We expect that to be during the 1949 season.

Though we shall not be sending seeds to you, we wish you luck with your delphiniums.

Join the American Delphinium Society

One way to help yourself to better results with whatever delphiniums you raise is to join the Delphinium Society. The year book, which you get with each \$2.00 paid as dues, contains articles written by the many authorities in this country, Canada, and England. They will cover a range of subjects that are sure to answer the questions you have in mind. The Secretary-Treasurer is Mr. Charles A. Prochaska, 2850 Richmond Road, R.F.D. #3, Chagrin Falls, Ohio. The date for the delphinium show is June 25 and 26; the place is the herberium at Case School of Applied Arts, Cleveland.

About Lyondel Hybrid Daylilies

We are offering daylily seeds to our customers. However, this year as in the past, we do not sell plants but do have them distributed through the Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio in run-

of-the-field lots. Later, as we discover very superior plants which we can propagate in large enough quantity to supply those who might be interested, we shall offer Lyondel named varieties. The flowers which merit that distinction will of course be superior specimens that should delight the gardeners.

Each year we select our parent plants from the ones which are blooming for the first time, always watching for those which are unusual in color, form, or texture and using plants from last year's blooming that are most outstanding. Not every seedling will be worth keeping in your garden because hybridization always results in some flowers that are not worthwhile, but you can be sure that a high percentage of the blooms will be a delight. There will surely be two or three of such excellence that you will feel well rewarded for the time and energy used to produce them. When you happen to get one of the very unusual, you will have the decided personal thrill that comes from contemplation of art anywhere. Besides you will have an unusual flower well ahead of those who buy plants introduced on the market as named varieties after the grower has taken time to increase his stock to a profitable quantity.

Whatever seeds you buy will be from parent plants that fit the color descriptions listed below. All will be hand-pollinized.

How to Grow Daylilies from Seed

Seeds may be sown either in the fall or in the spring. Fill the flats or the pots with rich garden soil, and plant the seeds. In about ten days or two weeks the seedlings will be up. However some of the seeds will remain dormant for months or even for a year, therefore the soils should not be discarded too soon. Upon the approach of winter months, the flats or the pots should be taken indoors, to a sunny window or to a greenhouse. If such facilities are lacking, it is best to delay the sowing of the seeds until the following spring because some of the seedlings might not be able to withstand the severe winters of some parts of our country. This applies only to the young, tender seedlings, as the mature plants can tolerate much cold. If allowed to grow through the winter months, the seedlings will become quite husky. By early spring they may be transplanted to wooden or paper bands, set out in the cold frame to harden and to establish themselves, and finally transplanted to their permanent places. Some may bloom the same year, but usually it takes two years from seed for the blossoms to appear. If sown in the spring, the seedlings should not be disturbed until the following spring; but where winters are mild, they may be transplanted in the fall.

Seed Offerings for 1948-49

1. THE RED GROUP—In this group are all shades of red which range from deep dark red through scarlet, ruby, and cherry to rose. Only the clear colors are used for breeding—a selective process that reduces the probability of overtones of brown or yellow—in the progeny. There will be variety in the form of the flowers: broad sepals and petals opening flat or funnel shaped; long, narrow sepals and petals, often with several open at once in large clusters. There will be variety in height of the scapes also. The general description in this group applies to the other color groups.
2. MAROONS—The maroons are the red values darker than groups 1: wine or plum purples, and the blackish red which is found rarely in our gardens.

3. **PASTELS**—The unusual colors among the light tints make up this group. There are pale salmons, pinkish lavenders, the lighter roses and raspberry pinks, and the combinations of light and dark in unusual bicolors. These have been real novelties in our garden.
4. **MIXTURES**—These are made up from all the color groups in near equal proportion. Those who have small plots and no special color preference will enjoy this package.

The Price of Seeds

Thirty seeds for \$2.50. The supply is very limited because many of the mother plants produce few seeds. In sending your orders, always indicate a second choice because we expect to be sold out of certain items quickly. Where seed stock is heavier you will get larger packages.

About Lyondel Hybrid Oriental Poppies

Again we are offering Oriental Poppy seeds, hand pollenized of course. As it is with the daylilies, the colors are the unusual. The true reds and orange-reds have not been used as parents. Rarely will these shades appear among the seedlings. Rather there will be all variations in pink, from the baby pink to deep rose and a sort of crushed raspberry. Some are pinkish lavender and others cherry red. Besides color, parent plants are selected for tall straight stems, consistent blooming habits, and resistance to disease. In our climate the bed is a mass of bloom for a month or longer if our season does not get hot unusually early. The qualities listed in plant selection combine in the offspring to make Lyondel poppies the most beautiful ones available—the kind you will be proud to have in your garden.

Poppies are especially attractive as cut flowers, and last as long as any other cut flower if one boils the freshly cut stems two or three minutes before arranging them.

How to Grow Poppies from Seed

Seeds may be sown either in September or early in the spring. Cold frames only should be used because the roots of poppies go very deep. Mix the seeds with some fine dirt to prevent crowding, and sow in rows right on the surface of the seedbed. Press them down firmly by a piece of 2 x 4, place two thickness of damp cheesecloth over the surface and water thoroughly but gently. Put glass on the frame to prevent rains from beating down the seeds and seedlings, but shade the glass with a piece of burlap. When the seedlings begin to come up, remove the cheesecloth. As it begins to get cooler, remove the burlap. By the time freezing weather arrives, the seedlings will be in large enough to winter over very well with glass protection alone. If your seasons are not long enough, sow in the spring. The seedlings should not be disturbed until the following September; then they may be transplanted to a temporary or permanent bed. The newly transplanted seedlings should receive mulch protection the first winter; after that none is necessary. When it is more convenient to transplant in the spring it should be done very early and, if possible, just before the late April or early May rains.

Success or failure with poppies will depend upon one important factor, namely, drainage. On poorly drained lands



poppies will be a dismal failure, while on well drained land they will grow like weeds and will be hard to eradicate. Before deciding to grow poppies, you should determine if they can be grown successfully under your climatic conditions.

Seed Offerings for 1948-49

The poppy seed is sold in a mixture of all the colors described—pinks from pale tints to crushed raspberry. Some with touches to lavender or salmon. The price is \$2.00 per package.

The Postscript

It is our hope that you had good luck with the seedlings you raised last year and that you have enough fine specimen plants blooming that you will want to get more from us when we offer them to you next year.

When you order daylily or poppy seeds this year it will be easier for both of us if you follow a few suggestions.

If you are a West Virginian include 2% Sales tax with your order.

Do not ask us to send seeds C.O.D. Use a check or money order.

Look for prompt acknowledgment of your order, but do not expect the seeds until they mature: poppies about July 20 and daylilies in early September.

We do not guarantee that our seeds will germinate because germination depends on many factors over which we have no control. However, we shall be fair with you as you will be with us, I am sure.

Our best to our flower friends for 1948.

LYONDEL GARDENS
Morgantown, W. Va.